

REMARKS

Reconsideration and reexamination of this application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested. On October 23, 2001 (six weeks prior to examination of this application), a supplemental preliminary amendment was filed canceling Claim 1 and adding Claims 2-133. A copy of the supplemental preliminary amendment and corresponding transmittal letter are enclosed with this response. Apparently due to the events following September 11, the supplemental preliminary amendment was not received by the Examiner before examining this application, since Claims 2-133 were not examined and Claim 1 was examined. Applicants request that the supplemental preliminary amendment be entered and that examination of this application include the changes of the supplemental preliminary amendment.

In the alternative, Applicants resubmit the requested changes from the supplemental preliminary amendment as a portion of this response, canceling Claim 1 and adding Claims 2-133. The requested changes have not been submitted in response to the publications cited in this office action, but rather to define the scope of the invention that Applicant intended to claim as indicated by the supplemental preliminary amendment of October

23, 2001. Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the preceding remarks.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Our records indicate that the \$1596 check for excess claim fees that was submitted with the supplemental preliminary response was executed by the USPTO on March 1, 2002. Therefore another \$1596 check has **NOT** been enclosed with this response. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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